

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: Fred Moore <fmoor@magicnet.net>
Subject: [3237] Argonaut 509
Message-ID: <199509160809.EAA13210@magicnet.magicnet.net>

Thanks to the couple of people who responded to my request last week, the rig is now working to factory specifications. After using the rig for the last week I find several things that could be better. The band width is too wide for me. I have a Timewave DSP-59+ hooked up to the QRO rig, and can hook it up to the accessory jack on the back. This would provide very good audio band width control, This would require more equipment to be carried when operation in the field. I wonder if a better solution would be placing a narrow filter in the 9mhz IF, If anyone has done this please give me some advice. I am open to cheaper solutions in the audio line if they are good and don't ring. Any comments would be appreciated. Also I read somewhere that someone was making a digital display (frequency) that can be installed in place of the slide rule dial, anyone know about this one. Thanks in advance and will look for everyone this weekend hope to work all of you...

My words are my own and copyrighted.

Fred Moore (ARS: WD8KNI) E-Mail: fmoor@magicnet.net
Work: Phone: (407) 678-7233
Central Florida Safe & Lock ESD, Inc
2070 Forsyth Rd
Orlando, Fl 32807
Home: 2118 Allspice Ave.
Orlando, Fl 32837

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: bfinch@asp.vet.purdue.edu (Robert Finch)
Subject: [3230] dayton list
Message-ID: <9509152245.AA03910@asp.vet.purdue.edu>

okay i signed up the very next day; what seemed like a long time ago. got a welcome message and NOTHING ELSE SINCE... does the dayton-1 really exist? baab, n6cxb

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: "Warren E. Lewis" <saswel@unx.sas.com>
Subject: [3226] Funny who you bump into on the bands...

Message-ID: <199509151721.AA19536@cardamom.unx.sas.com>

Hey Gang!!

Last night, as I was making my last trip up the 40 Meter band before heading off to bed, I heard a crisp 559 CQ on about 7.040. It was none other than V31XE (W3XE) Ray from the list who said he was going to be down in Belize. I gave him a quick 2x2 call and he copied my 5 watts as a 559 also. Lets see that makes 6 or so DX QRP contacts, only 94 more to go for DXCC. :-)

His QRP Plus sounded great...first time I have heard one on the air. We had a nice short chat...it is always a thrill working one of the gang from the list.

cheers and 73 - Warren

--

Warren E. Lewis
Technical Support Division
SAS Institute Inc.
Cary, NC

saswel@unx.sas.com
(919) 677-8001 x6542
PP-ASEL
AD4ZE DOD#0021

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: Stan Skelton <sskelton@cln.etc.bc.ca>
Subject: [3222] qrp & tubes (glowbugs?)
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9509150834.A26588-01000000@sparky>

Reply to Jim N3VXI

Hi Jim....YOU THREW AWAY TUBES!!!!..... A pox onto you, may you forever more be plagued with thermal runaway!!!!....(just kidding);-)

I guess I should explain to everyone, I wasn't planning some kind of "internet coup", or "qrp-l raid", when I suggested a separate "private" batch list for e-mail, I just had more than 20 guys (yes they were all male) ask me to share the information I had received via "private" mail on the coil winding info etc re: tube stuff and qrp rigs....rather than send 20 separate messages every time I got more info, I suggested "batching" e-mail addresses on my server so I could just send 1 message to 20 addresses!....When all 20 people also "batch" the same addresses, VOILA, you get a sort of a group!....You don't have to waste bandwidth sending out messages that some people already have in their archives.....BUT if this is not "netiquette" on this maillist, I'm sorry, I won't

suggest it again....

I received about 20 screens full of terrific info on qrp & tubes from Larry Mull, AB7GZ, (he received it from <Jeff@pdxml1.mentor.com>), a sort of compilation of private and public messages some of which were already posted on qrp-l.....I was hesitant to post it on qrp-l....

73's Stan...VE7SKT

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: Stan Skelton <sskelton@cln.etc.bc.ca>
Subject: [3224] qrp & tubes..glowbugs..sparks in keys??
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9509150818.A1495-0100000@sparky>

Subject: QRP & tubes...

Hi all...In reviewing some schematics for various low power rigs, I am "shocked" by both the voltages and current that is directed through the key...I can envisage sparks and all kinds of heavy duty "wear & tear".....What would be really neat would be a universal, plug in relay ??? that could be used with most qrpt rigs between the rig and the key....Any people out there that could plan something to handle lots of current/voltage yet still protect a delicate key?

73's Stan...VE7SKT

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: [3227] Re: Antenna System Found
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.950915101003.13428A-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>

Chuck,

I spied that antenna, too, on a trip to Germany in 1983 and wondered what it was. I also suspected that it was an over-the-horizon radar array. I was there to help install a 150kW, 50MHz amp in a high-energy physics machine at Max Plank Institute outside of Munich.

Small world! ... That antenna has CAPTURE AREA in spades!

72, Dave, W6EMD (NorCal #339)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: bh719@freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU (Patrick Cook)
Subject: [3232] Re: Antenna System Found
Message-ID: <199509160006.SAA20490@Freenet.UCHSC.EDU>

Hi Chuck:

You said you need time to re-coup from your exciting vacation that you took to get away from your "normal" life BEFORE you go back to your "normal" life.

Kinda sounds like a Catch-22 situation. :-) heheheheh

72/73's for now, my friend!

DE KB00XD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: bh719@freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU (Patrick Cook)
Subject: [3234] Re: dayton list
Message-ID: <199509160020.SAA24336@Freenet.UCHSC.EDU>

It's an active list around Hamvention time. Try looking somewhere around Mid-February or so. (I think *I* just may subscribe if somebody has the subscription address. I can store it on one of my other accounts in the meantime).

72/73's for now, my friends!

DE KB00XD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: Goran Hosinsky <hosinsky@royac.iac.es>
Subject: [3229] Re: K3TKS is wired
Message-ID: <9509151842.AA10657@royac8.royac.iac.es>

>project of putting a rig (TX, RX or XCVR) in a fuse box, and Bill tells

Our fuse boxes here are huge things mounted on the wall of the house.
I suppose that is not what you do mean, please explain.

72 goran ea8yu

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: bh719@freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU (Patrick Cook)
Subject: [3231] Re: Mystery of Lead Acid Battery Self-Discharge Solved
Message-ID: <199509152354.RAA16939@Freenet.UCHSC.EDU>

You may have stored them on those blocks mentiioned, but are they stored at room temperature??? Just curious, and BTW I'm not capable of quoting from here (my humble apologies).

73's for now, my friends!

DE KB00XD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [3233] Re: Mystery of Lead Acid Battery Self-Discharge Solved
Message-ID: <199509160019.RAA13756@usr4.primenet.com>

At 07:55 PM 9/15/95 EDT, Patrick Cook wrote:

>

>

>You may have stored them on those blocks mentiioned, but are they stored at room temperature??? Just curious, and BTW I'm not capable of quoting from here (my humble apologies).

>

>73's for now, my friends!

>

>DE KB00XD

>

Yep...room (or ambient) temperature. Don't know any way of heating the electrolyte, but it never gets that cold here in AZ. As long as there are no thermal gradients, temp doesn't have much effect.

72, de Roger

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: bh719@freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU (Patrick Cook)
Subject: [3235] Re: Mystery of Lead Acid Battery Self-Discharge Solved
Message-ID: <199509160027.SAA26109@Freenet.UCHSC.EDU>

Oh...ic. Very interesting indeed. I store my gel-cells at room temperature here in Denver when they're not in use. With my being a BMHAer, I'm always looking for ways to use my ham gear on my bicycle.

I'm just a no-code tech right now, but just wait till I get my HF!! :) Then people will be saying they had a QSO with somebody who said he was bicycle mobile or something.

I'll smile with TREMENDOUS pride when I see words like those associated with MY callsign. :-)

72/73's for now, my friends!

DE KB00XD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: myers@bigboy73.West.Sun.COM (Dana Myers)
Subject: [3225] Re: qrp & tubes..glowbugs..sparks in keys??
Message-ID: <199509151618.JAA02667@sunspot.West.Sun.COM>

Stan (VE7SKT) writes:

> From sskelton@c1n.etc.bc.ca Fri Sep 15 09:05:51 1995

> Hi all...In reviewing some schematics for various low power
> rigs, I am "shocked" by both the voltages and current that
> is directed through the key...I can envisage sparks and all
> kinds of heavy duty "wear & tear".....What would be really
> neat would be a universal, plug in relay ??? that could be
> used with most qrpt rigs between the rig and the key....Any
> people out there that could plan something to handle lots
> of current/voltage yet still protect a delicate key?

Um, yeah. You could use a semiconductor transistor, possibly even a power MOSFET, to protect the key. Much faster and much more reliable than a relay, since even the relay contacts would wear out the same as a key.

But, then, what would the point of using tubes be?

; -)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [3228] Re: qrp & tubes..glowbugs..sparks in keys??
Message-ID: <199509151738.SAA06324@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Stan et.al.,

That was one of the problems with some of the tube rigs. There are basically two types of keying and the one you want is "grid-block". It was the easiest on operators and keys/bugs.

If you are going to tube rigs, then consider the T0 keyer from Hallicrafter as it had a relay (mercury wetted if I recall correctly) for the high voltages and possible currents associated with same.

This group is not restricted to solid state and we welcome any discussion of tubes for QRP related work, but be forewarned there are some of OFs in this group that "remember when". :-)

There are a number of things that I love about the solid state rigs: a) no lethal voltages around the innards at 12V battery operated b) small and lower current when in RX (heck, tube filaments draw more power than my entire rig in TX for a lot of tubes). The 1S and 3S series of tubes like used in the Zenith Transoceanic receiver could operate off of batteries, thus lower voltages and lower currents, but still significant by today's standards.

OH, the T0 keyer was not Iambic. :-)

dit dit

--

Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [3236] Re: qrp & tubes..glowbugs..sparks in keys??
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.950915215434.6884C-1000000@vortex>

Hi Stan,

Yep, good old tubes and cathode keying! With all that voltage on the key you learn to keep the hands only on the grounded side etc!

Like Chuck said, some OF might even tell stories about putting big caps across the key to hold down the sparks etc!

Now you know why contacts on the bugs and keys wore out and had to be filed down! Somebody might even tell about "borrowing" his moms' fingernail files to do the job cuz all his were too coarse. Or someone might even tell you how the 866's would change from dim to bright "glowing" as the rig was keyed, and how that, plus the arcing of the key in a dark room, made late night DXing hard to hide.

But not me, I wouldn't tell any of those kinds of stories....

But using a single 6ag7 xtal osc with loop coupling to the antenna, running just a few wats made late night DXing a little better. Never could keep the bug from making all that noise!

Many of us ran qrp for years and didn't realize we were doing anything different! Power was like speed...the more you could spend, the more you could run!

Enjoy, cul,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
.....ARRL.....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995

From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: [3238] Re: qrp & tubes..glowbugs..sparks in keys??
Message-ID: <Pine.PMDF.3.91.950916092044.543375560B-100000@utkvx.utk.edu>

Ah, the nostalgia of it all. The smell of arc-ozone. The sell of a blown electrolytic. The sight of glowing tubes (could only afford the smaller 816s (I think they were--but just as mercury purple)). The wrinkling plastic of the dial faces as they aged from the 6-v and 12-v lamps behind them (#47 was a favorite). The sizzle of spilled coffee dripping through the ventilation holes in the case and bubbling on the tubes.

However--he said, pinching himself to awakeness--everything has its place. Nostalgia belongs to the eye-ball (or nowadays, e-mail) QSO; good engineering practice belongs on the air--even for tubes. Recreating some of those 1-tube transmitters and using them just to prove they still work is one thing. Putting together a good QRP tube transmitter for regular use is another. Let nostalgia also include all that one has learned or can learn about vacuum tube circuitry before a regular-use tub rig hits the air. The life and property you save may be your own. My J-38--the one I used for my first ham contact--has got to last my ham lifetime, so it will never again be used in a cathode keying circuit. Conversely, my life has to last as long as the J-38, so never again will I used directly rectified AC. Y'all can fill in the rest.

Now where was I--he said, slipping back into revery--ah, yes, the look and feel of the remnants of an exploded wax capacitor all over everything underneath the chassis. . . The gentle changes in the glow of 0A2s and VR-150s to follow the keying. . .

-73-
LB, W4RNL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>
Subject: [3239] Re: qrp & tubes..glowbugs..sparks in keys??
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950916064618.27607C-100000@crl3.crl.com>

I hope all of you that are considering putting a rig that glows in the dark on the air read carefully LB comments.

I was there in the early 50's with the rigs that click and chirp and drifted. I no longer care to hear a T7 or T8 note with chirps and drifting so fast I need a extra hand to follow it up the band.

However, I do enjoy boatanchor equipment. A well tuned R-390A is better

receiver or at least as good as any multi thousand dollar rice box in use today.

We have learned a lot. A good CW tube rig is not a minimum parts count rig. Today we know how to bias the final, we know about and how to QSK, we know how to use voltage dividers on the oscillator screens to eliminate chirp, and grid-block keying works, etc... So in your rush to try out a tube do a little research and put a clean signal on the band. At the next hamfest pick up a old arrl handbook and/or bill orr's radio handbook and read the technical section. If properly designed you will have a rig you will be proud to have others hear on the band.

A single tube keyed oscillator is not the state of the tube art.

So have fun with Hollow State, I do, but remember you are known by your signal. All tubes rigs are not equal and there is no reason for a T7C signal report. In addition some of the commercial designs of the 50/60's did not have clean signals. Today we know better.

So hope to see you on 7040 soon with my new (?) 6L6 rig I am building with QSK and grid block keying.

de stan ak0b
e-mail and comments via randyw@crl.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995
From: Jim Eshleman <lujce@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [3220] Re: Tube QRP mail list (fwd)
Message-ID: <95Sep15.102112edt.4270-2+30@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

> There's talk from the scuttle butt of the creation of a QRP/Tube
> mail list - sort of a marriage of the two sister lists QRP and
> Boatanchors. At first hearing one might think this action is
> unnecessary, but considering that the QRP list only works
> with semiconductors, and the BA list seems devoted mostly to
> commercially-built rigs, maybe a forum dedicated to homebrewing
> low-power tube rigs seems reasonable.

I wouldn't consider QRP-L as working with only semiconductors. I think the talk is mostly semiconductor because many want portable equipment, but that doesn't preclude discussion of tube rigs. QRP-L is open to any QRP-related topics, except Dayton which belongs on DAYTON-L :-)

Why don't you go ahead and talk about what you want, then if the volume

is too great it can be spun-off onto a seperate list?

Now you've got me wishing I hadn't thrown away those three boxes of tubes the last time I moved :-)

73

Jim N3VXI

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Sep 16 10:06:23 1995

From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU

Subject: [3221] Re: Tube QRP mail list (fwd)

Message-ID: <Pine.PMDF.3.91.950915103243.543399132B-1000000@utkvx.utk.edu>

Not only is this list (QRP-L) open to discussion of qrp with vacuum tubes, but all may find at least some of the qrp journals equally open. The editor of 72 seemed enthusiastically nostalgic when I sent him a few notes, and I have seen photos of tube rigs in QQ. About 7 or 8 years ago, I sold the 12AT7-5763 rig that appeared in CQ about 1980 to a collector who likely has run it several times at least into a dummy load to verify that it still works. 10 watts (but reducible to below 5) on 80-15 (left off 10 to avoid having to think about neutralizing it). Very reliable--used crystals and a variety of outboard VFOs, like the Heath HG-10 and a solid-state kit of forgotten origins. As most of the kit designs have shown in solid state, a tube rig does not have to be a 1-tube job (Pixie-equivalent?) to work well as a QRP rig. In fact, everything I put into it beyond the first tube was to increase signal quality and rig reliability.

-73-

LB, W4RNL